

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

FOLEY, Mark (Republican)
Representative, 16th District, Florida
Elected 1994 to the 104th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Newton, Massachusetts - 8 September 1954

Home: West Palm Beach, Florida

Marital status: Single

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: Palm Beach Community College, 1973-75

Military: None

Profession: Food business owner; real estate executive

Political: FL Senate, 1992-94; State House, 1990-92; Lake North City Commissioner and Mayor.

Won the 1994 general election with 58% of the vote by defeating John Comerford (D) for the open seat of Rep Tom Lewis (R) who retired. Reelected in 2000 with 60% of the vote, and in 2002 with 79%.

Rep Foley is a moderate-to-conservative Republican. Is considered “more patient and less dogmatic” than his southern peers. On the issues of the environment and abortion rights is a centrist. Has been interested in immigration policy. Supports term limits, cutting government bureaucracy, and most of the items in the Contract With America. In Mar96, along with 3 other GOPers, formed the House Republican Defense Working Group to monitor defense legislation, with an eye on reducing wasteful spending (BNA). In the 105th Congress, appointed to the Banking Cmte. In 1997 co-sponsored amendments to both the FY98 DoD auth and DoD approps to terminate production of the B-2 bomber, stating he would rather spend the funds for other needed weapons such as the F-22. (CR, Jun97) In the 106th Congress, criticized US nuclear laboratories for having lax security. Said “the details of the Cox Report troubled him greatly because there was no question that the national security of our country had been compromised. Briefly considered a run for the Senate but decided against it. Supporter of the F-22, describing it as the number one modernization priority of the Air Force and respectfully disagreed with the HAC Subc on Defense decision to zero-out procurement of the program. Supported the goal of protecting the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo from the tyranny of Milosevic, but questioned the strategy behind the US mission. Noted that the US has failed to address human rights violations in Rwanda, the Sudan, etc. In the 107th Congress voiced concern about the possible negative impact on the citrus industry of granting fast track trade authority to the President. Voiced support for the increased veterans’ health care funding contained in the FY 01 emergency supplemental appropriations. Supported the October 02 Iraq war powers resolution granting President Bush authority to use US military forces against Saddam Hussein. Called for immigration reform in light of the elevated threat posed by terrorists.

In the 108th Congress, announced on 5Feb03 that he was “all but certain” to run for the Senate seat held by Sen Bob Graham (D). After the US invaded Iraq in March 03 said American had no choice but to support the mission of removing Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction and its leader. Condemned Cuba’s Fidel Castro for his April 03 execution of three men trying to flee that country.

AF Bases: Avon Park AF Range

COMMITTEES

WAYS & MEANS – Subcs on: Oversight; Select Revenue Measures